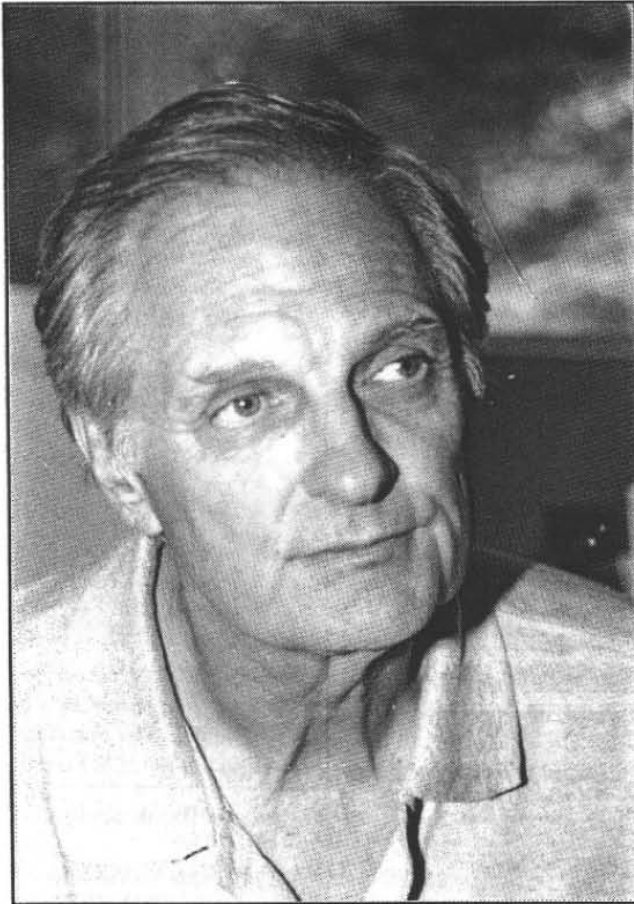


STRI news

April 4, 1997

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978



Movie star Alan Alda, best known as actor, director and writer for the TV series "M*A*S*H" visited BCI this past week-end to document research projects for his TV series "Scientific American Frontiers". In the photo, Alda listens about David Roubik's new findings, at the BCI computer room ••• Alan Alda, famoso actor de cine muy conocido como actor, director y escritor de la serie para televisión "M*A*S*H" visitó Barro Colorado el pasado fin de semana para documentar nuevos encuentros para su serie "Scientific American Frontiers". En la foto, Alda escucha sobre David Roubik y sus estudios. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

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Editor: Maria Luz Calderón
Director: Georgina de Alba
Photographic Services: Marcos A. Guerra

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, April 8, noon seminar speaker will be Bertrand Schatz, Université Paul Sabatier, France

*Searching and Foraging in the Ant *Ectatomma ruidum*: Individual and Collective Flexibilities*

Abstract

Links between individual flexibilities and collective performances during searching and foraging activities were studied in the neotropical ant *Ectatomma ruidum*. Ecological conditions constrain food searching behavior, as does intense intraspecific competition from the high density of colonies. However, efficient foraging at the colony level results from an individual ability to learn both in space and time. Different forms of learning adjust behavior to the local environment. There are five behavioral categories of foragers, ranging from solitary capture of prey to recruitment with chemical trails. We also demonstrated a behavioral dissociation among hunters facing small and numerous prey. The richness of the behavioral repertoire and the individual and collective flexibilities allow colonies to efficiently exploit their environment, and helps explain the ecological success of this species.

BAMBI SEMINARS AT BCI

Next week BCI will have two Bambis. Tuesday, April 8, Bambi seminar speaker will be David Burslem, University of Aberdeen

A 30 yr Record of Forest Dynamics from Kolombangara, Solomon Islands

On Thursday, April 10, Bambi seminar speaker will be Rick Condit, STRI

Testing Diversity Theories with Large Plots

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call BCI at 272-2124.

FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

Federal Funds Scholarships

Forms are now available for the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund scholarships. In order to apply, the following criteria must be met:

- Only federal and postal employees and their dependent family members may apply.
- The employee must have three years of federal service

by August 31. Applications must be postmarked by May 30.

- All applicants must be students working toward accredited degrees.
- Dependents must be full-time students.
- Employees may be part-time students.
- All applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- The awarding of scholarships is based entirely on student merit. Applicants are required to write an essay on the topic "How Should Government Set the Balance Between Combating Civil Violence and Guaranteeing Civil Liberty?"

Excelencia: La Nueva Competencia

El jueves, 17 de abril estaremos presentando el video "Excelencia: La Nueva Competencia", a las 10am, LMR, Tupper. Este seminario-video de 90 minutos, es una de las conferencias para empresarios del mexicano Miguel A. Cornejo; expuestas recientemente en APEDE. Los interesados deberán confirmar su asistencia en Recursos Humanos.

Nuevas Ofertas en Pólizas de Salud

Aquellos empleados que están asegurados por la póliza médica de la Aseguradora Mundial y deseen conocer una posible oferta de PALIC, favor enviar sus nombres y los de sus dependientes a Maritza Perurena, en Recursos Humanos.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Barnes, Penelope A.G. and Morton, B.** 1997. "The Functional Morphology of *Macrinula reevesii* (Bivalvia: Mactroidea) in Hong Kong: Adaptations for a Deposit-Feeding Lifestyle." *Journal of Zoology* 241: 12-34.
- Christy, John H.** 1997. "Deception: the Correct Path to Enlightenment?" *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 12: 160.
- Colinvaux, Paul.** 1997. "The Idea of Bio-



Group shot of the 8th International Council of Zooarchaeology Meeting, held at the STRI' Earl S. Tupper Research and Conference Center from Sunday, March 16, through Saturday, March 22. The meeting was organized by Richard Cooke and collaborators. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

diversity: Philosophies of Paradise, by D. Takacs [book review]." 1997. *Nature* 387(6617): 591-592.

Ricklefs, Robert E. 1997. "Comparative Demography of New World Populations of Thrushes (*Turdus* spp.)." *Ecological Monographs* 67(1): 23-43

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRI April Birthdays

Nelson Hernández	1
Diomedes Abrego	1
Axel Calderón	2
Neal G. Smith	3
Mercedes Denis	3
Dolores Piperno	7
Gabriel Martínez	9
Marcela Paz	10
Efraín Domínguez	12
Vielka Rodríguez	12
América Staff	14
Ismael González	23
Marcos Guerra	27

